

From: Phillip C. Wolf
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 1/23/02 6:57pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Sirs:

I am an avid computer user since learning about them in my high school in 1972.

I am also a member of the Armed Services of the United States of America, and have witnessed firsthand the tears of frustration at using an incompetent software suite foisted upon the country by Microsoft.

This is NOT a benevolent monopoly as ATT was. This is an evil, greedy, incompetent corporation which stops at NOTHING to extend and prevail it's dominance.

Witness:

Bill Gates, Microsoft, et alia working diligently behind the scenes to control and steer the COMCAST/ATT broadband merger, so as to completely stifle any potential competition from AOL Time Warner.

My industry-standard, world-standard computer software is today increasing finding internet sites which do not function properly due to Microsoft's blatant highjacking of such standards with proprietary "flavors" which are known only by Microsoft, and which overtake the world internet by their monopoly stranglehold. (Java, C++, VisualBasic, FTP, html, and TCP/IP)

The self-imposed, self-proposed "penalty" offer (truly, THIS IS A PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO MAKE A COMPLETE MOCKERY OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM) to pay off foul deeds against the consumers of America and the world, by "donating" used systems containing Microsoft products EXCLUSIVELY to public schools. Is there no one in government today who can see that this is a thinly disguised attempt to POISON the minds of schoolchildren and pull them into the Hell that is Windows(tm)?????

Unix, OS/2 (killed by Microsoft) even Linux, are far, far, far better operating systems than Microsoft Windows. ANYONE who uses a computer extensively and dares to compare will see this in a micro-second.

To close, I add the thoughts of a commentator I read at Linuxplanet.com, with which I am in COMPLETE agreement:

* Any remedy seeking to prevent an extension of Microsoft's monopoly must place Microsoft products as extra-cost options in the purchase of new computers, so that the user who does not wish to purchase them is not forced to do so. This means that for the price differential between a new computer with Microsoft software and one without, a computer seller must offer the software without the computer (which would prevent

computer makers from saying that the difference in price is only a few dollars). Only then could competition come to exist in a meaningful way.

* The specifications of Microsoft's present and future document file formats must be made public, so that documents created in Microsoft applications may be read by programs from other makers, on Microsoft's or other operating systems. This is in addition to opening the Windows application program interface (API, the set of "hooks" that allow other parties to write applications for Windows operating systems), which is already part of the proposed settlement.

* Any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and approved by an independent network protocol body. This would prevent Microsoft from seizing de facto control of the Internet.

PLEASE: Stop this monster run amok.

PLEASE: protect Americans and others from this criminal hegemony.

PLEASE: decide in favor of the American Way of Life which has worked so well for hundreds of years - a fair, open, and LEVEL playing field for business.

Do the right thing.

Please.

sincerely,
Phillip C. Wolf
Master Chief Petty Officer (USCG)
Consumer
Patriot